

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

You only have to look back to the coverage of the conventions by big media to see the negative effects of consolidation: In what promises to be a highly charged election, Big Media decided to offer only one hour of coverage per night of the DNC and RNC conventions reducing by 2/3rds the amount of information available to the public and thus arbitrarily deciding what THEY thought was important to cover. Our Presidential elections are only every four years....and we need all the information we can get. Not only that but repeatedly News organizations are airing material one day only to be called on the carpet the next for misconstruing the facts... These large organizations are not meeting the public need.